

Message Text

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ACTION OS-03

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P 171035Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1127

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1623

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ASCH, CE

SUBJ: GRANT ASSISTANCE OVERSEA CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

REF: STATE 125027

1. WE VERY MUCH APPRECIATE INCREASED GRANT ASSISTANCE TO OVERSEA CHILDREN'S SCHOOL (OCS) AS OUTLINED REFTTEL, WHICH WILL HAVE SIGNIFICANT POSITIVE EFFECT ON QUALITY OF EDUCATION HERE.

2. EMBASSY AGREES THAT HEADMASTER, PREFERABLY U.S.-TRAINED AMERICAN, SHOULD BE HIRED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. PLEASE FORWARD SOONEST PARTICULARS ON TWO AMERICAN CANDIDATES PROPOSED BY DR. PARSONS.

3. EMBASSY WISHES POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT FINAL DECISION ON HEADMASTER WILL BE MADE BY MULTINATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD REPRESENTING 25 COUNTRIES USING THE SCHOOL. BOARD ALREADY COMMITTED TO INTERVIEW JOHN PATERSON, UK CANDIDATE PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED BY DR. PARSONS. IN VIEW NONAVAILABILITY U.S. GRANT FUNDS FOR PURPOSE, BOARD HAS DECIDED TO PAY FOR PATERSON INTERVIEW FROM OCS FUNDS. CHIEF CRITERION FOR BOARD WILL BE THAT HEADMASTER CHOSEN BE MOST COMPETENT CANDIDATE AVAILABLE.

4. BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER AMERICAN WILL BE SELECTED, EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT ARTICLE II, PARA 2, OF GRANT BE AMENDED TO READ QUOTE ITEM TWO: SUPPLEMENT OF SALARY AND RELATED EXPENSES FOR A U.S.-TRAINED AMERICAN HEADMASTER
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AND/OR TEACHER FOR ONE YEAR. AMOUNT AVAILABLE DOLS. 10,000

UNQUOTE. THIS CHANGE WOULD GIVE EMBASSY FLEXIBILITY TO ALLOW
US MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF U.S. GRANT TO ENSURE GREATEST AMERICAN
INPUT INTO SCHOOL REGARDLESS OF DECISIGG BOARD FIM
LLY MAKES
ON HEADMASTER.

5. PLEASE INFORM US BY PRIORITY CABLE WHETHER REQUESTED
CHANGE POSSIBLE.
VAN HOLLEN

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NNN

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